

SHEPSHED  
Urban District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1920.

BY

THOMAS BELL, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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# Shepshed Urban District.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Shepshed Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,--

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1920—the eighteenth since my appointment as your Medical Officer of Health.

The following are the most notable features :—

1. The birth rate (24·5) shows a very great improvement, comparing most favourably with that for last year (16·5).
2. The death rate (12·2) also shows a great improvement as compared with that for last year (16·1), and is even a little less than that for England and Wales (12·4).
3. The infant mortality (37·3) is the lowest on record.
4. The erection of the houses under the new scheme progresses exceedingly slowly in view of the great shortage of houses.
5. The enlargement and improvement of the Sewage Farm becomes more urgent.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS BELL.

Shepshed,

May 17th, 1921

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health

## FOR THE YEAR 1920.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**Population**      The population at the last census (1911) was 5542; and as estimated by the Registrar-General for this year is 5460.

**Births**            Legitimate      ...      63 males, 68 females.  
                      Illegitimate     ...      0    ..    3    ..    .  
                      Total births     ..      63    ..    71    ..    =    134.

The birth rate is therefore 24·5 per 1000 inhabitants, as compared with 16·8 for 1919—a very great improvement.

The birth rate for England and Wales for 1920 is 25·4.

					Males.	Females.	
<b>Deaths</b>	No. of deaths occurring within the district	33	28	=	61		
	<i>Add</i> No. of deaths of "residents" occurring						
	beyond the district    ..    ..	4	5	=	9		
	<i>Deduct</i> deaths of "non-residents" occurring						
	within the district    ...    ..	1	2	=	3		
	<i>Nett</i> No. of deaths belonging to the district	36	31	=	67		

The death rate is 12·2 per 1000 living, which compares very favourably with that for 1919 (16·1), and is even less than that for England and Wales (12·4).

Of the total number of deaths (67), 5 were of children under one year of age, and 26 of persons over 65 years of age.

**Infantile Mortality**      Five deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving an infantile mortality of 37·3 per 1000 births registered. This is the lowest infantile mortality recorded for the district, the next lowest being 50 for 1917, 51 for 1914, and 64·8 for 1916. The rate for England and Wales for 1920 is 80.

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Measles ... ..	4	2
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	0
Influenza ... ..	2	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	2	3
Tuberculosis Meningitis ... ..	0	1
Cancer—Malignant diseases ... ..	3	3
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	0	2
Organic Heart disease ... ..	4	3
Bronchitis ... ..	0	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	1	0
Other Respiratory diseases ... ..	1	0
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	1	0
Nephritis and Bright's disease ... ..	2	0
Congenital Debility ... ..	0	1
Violence (apart from Suicide) ... ..	3	0
Other defined causes ... ..	10	13
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	1	0
All causes ... ..	36	31

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever ... ..	32	Notifications
Diphtheria ... ..	3	
Erysipelas ... ..	4	
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	7	
Total ... ..	47	

A few cases occurred in the early months of the year, but the greater number during the last quarter. The type of case was mild; and no doubt some cases were not seen by medical practitioners, and therefore were not notified and isolated, with the result that the cases were not confined to one particular area or to a particular school. With few exceptions, such cases as were notified were not efficiently isolated. Isolation in cottages is almost impossible.

One death in the early part of the year was due to scarlet fever.

Diphtheria	Three cases were notified, and in every case anti-diphtheritic serum (supplied by your Council) was used with success. In two cases prophylactic doses were given to the other members of the families with successful results.
Erysipelas	Five mild cases were notified.
Puerperal Fever	One case, which recovered, was notified.
Pneumonia	Seven cases were notified, all of which ended fatally. Six of these cases complicated measles, and one was of the severe septic type associated with influenza. This last case occurred in an outlying cottage, and was connected with an epidemic of influenza in an adjoining district.
Measles	An extensive epidemic visited the district during the summer months (May, June, and part of July), for which it was found necessary to close all the schools. The type was severe, and caused six deaths.
Influenza	This disease was fairly prevalent during the months of January and February, and though mild in character, it caused one death.
Disinfection	All the schools were thoroughly disinfected during the Christmas and summer holidays, and immediately after the closures for measles.  Disinfectants are supplied freely to houses in which infectious diseases occur, and all such houses are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector. There are no means for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, &c.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications	Form A. (New cases)	...	...	...	13
	.. C. (Admitted to Tuberculous Institutions)	..			3
	.. D. (Discharged from .. .. )	..			4
					—
	Total notifications	...	...		20

Of the 13 new cases, 10 were Pulmonary, and 3 other forms of Tuberculosis.

On 31st December there were 18 cases of Pulmonary, and 3 cases of other forms, under observation. Seven cases were residents in sanatoria for some time during the year.

Deaths	Six deaths were due to Tuberculosis 5 Pulmonary and 1 Meningitis, making a Tuberculosis death rate of 1.1 per 1000 living
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## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Leicestershire County Council (Health Department) undertake, free of charge, bacteriological investigations on behalf of the medical practitioners of the county. The following is a list of specimens examined from this district and the results:—

Diphtheria Swabs	4—1 positive and 3 negative.
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	12—3     „     „     9     „

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water is still mostly derived from wells, but there is an increasing number of houses being supplied with water from the Blackbrook mains belonging to the Loughborough Corporation. There are still a few draw wells. Generally speaking the water is good. Fifteen samples were examined—7 being good, 4 fair, and 4 unfit for domestic purposes. In the latter cases water from the mains was substituted. Eleven new water service connections were made with the Blackbrook mains.

## MILK SUPPLY.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops' Order has been in force in the district for 15 years. I find the general cleanliness is much improved. The details are shown in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

These are frequently visited by the Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Meat Inspector. He reports that the meat is of a high-class quality. He found and seized two parts of carcasses, weighing 641 lbs. altogether, and had the same condemned and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Mr. J. G. Poston, Surveyor and Manager of the Sewage Farm, reports:—

“ Three connections were made with main sewers, viz., Forest Street, Charnwood Road, and Market Place; and in each instance the sewers were clear of deposit.

The street man-holes have been regularly opened and examined, and cleaned where found necessary.

## Sewage Farm

The work of thoroughly overhauling and cleaning a portion of the farm in the previous year, proved very helpful during 1920 for the purposes of irrigation; and a continuation of this method, and the employment of more labour for this purpose, will ease a situation which cannot be said to be wholly good.

The osiers have been cut, and an opportunity given for much needed cleaning. A large quantity of new osiers have been planted on prepared ground. One neighbouring farmer has had the sewage turned on his land on several occasions, which has given the farm a useful rest.

The report of Mr. J. T. McCarthy, of Coalville, as to a permanent improvement at the farm, was not received up to the end of the year."

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privies	...	...	...	188
.. Pan-closets	...	...	...	789
.. W.C.'s	...	...	...	126

The number of privies is being reduced gradually, 18 having been converted into pan closets (35) during the year. In my opinion a privy is always a nuisance, and their conversion into other forms of closets should be accelerated.

The closets at the factories are all satisfactory.

## SCAVENGING.

This work is done by contract, and during the year under review many complaints were received. The emptying of pail closets and dust bins weekly is satisfactory. The complaints received were of neglect in emptying ashpits and privy middens. In some cases the ashpits are too small for the number of tenants; and in other cases so very large that tenants would only place their ashes inside the door, with the result that soon the door-way was filled and a heap collected outside.

I am undoubtedly in favour of converting all privy middens into pan closets and dust bins, and of substituting dust bins for ashpits. In this way all excreta and ashes would be removed weekly, tending to the suppression of flies, and better health conditions generally.

## PLANS OF BUILDINGS.

Six plans were passed, including—

- 1 addition to a cottage
- 2 additions to factories
- 1 engine house for factory
- 1 workshop
- 1 alteration of and addition to sanitary conveniences at a factory

The total number of plans passed since the formation of the Sanitary Authority in 1887 is 613, which includes 524 dwelling houses. Plans for only 6 dwelling houses have been passed since the beginning of 1914.

## HOUSING.

The housing difficulty becomes more acute. There are many cases of over-crowding, in some of which two families are compelled to live in one house. There are also many houses which I consider not fit to be inhabited. It is useless to endeavour to deal with such cases until more houses are provided.

However, the housing inspection re-started last year continues, 167 being inspected. In 150 cases defects were found, generally with regard to cleanliness of walls and ceilings. Other defects found were insufficient and unsuitable closet accommodation, defects in drains, dampness, and in a few cases dry rot in floors. All these matters have either been put right, or were under the consideration of your Sanitary Committee at the end of the year. Housing  
Inspection

Summonses were issued against two landlords. In one case a conviction was obtained, and in the other the case was withdrawn on payment of costs, the work being then in hand. Prosecutions

One small house was closed, and two others were voluntarily demolished.

Your Council have undertaken a housing scheme for the erection of 60 houses on two sites—Leicester Road site (12) and Oakley Road (48). The building of these houses have been exceedingly slow. Housing  
Scheme

All the 12 houses on the Leicester Road site have been built, and six will be ready for occupation in a short time. Building has begun on the other site.

The question of the rental has not yet been decided. Your Council maintain that a weekly rent of 10/-, inclusive of rates, is a fair and just rent for these new cottages, according to the standard rents of cottages similar in accommodation in the district. The Ministry of Health insist on a rent of 12/6, exclusive of rates, and the matter has been referred to the Housing Rent Tribunal for arbitration.

There is no doubt that if the rental is increased to more than 10/- per week, including rates, these new houses, if occupied at all, will not be occupied by the class of people for whom they were erected, viz., the working classes.

## FACTORIES AND WORK-SHOPS.

**Factories**            There are 19 Factories—Hosiery 10, Boot and Shoe 3, Glove Fabric 1, Lace 1, Joiners' 2, Brickworks 1, Blacksmith 1. All were inspected, and four notices were issued at the instructions of H.M. Lady Factory Inspector, with respect to closet accommodation.

**Workshops**        The Work-shops number 58. Several were inspected, and in three cases notices were served to lime-wash.

**Out-workers**      Lists of Out-workers were not sent in regularly during the year. In two cases of infectious disease notices were issued prohibiting the giving out of home-work to infected houses.

**Bake-houses**        The Bake-houses (six in number, included in the work-shops) were inspected. Two notices were served to lime-wash.

There are no under-ground bake-houses.

For further particulars concerning factories and work-shops *vide* special table.

# HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics Year ended 31st December, 1920.

## 1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	...	...	5460
(2) General death-rate	...	...	12·2
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	.	...	1·1
(4) Infantile mortality	...	...	37·3
(5) Number of dwelling houses of all classes			1346
(6) Number of working-class dwelling houses			1078
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected			12

## 2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

### 1.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	167
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	167
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	...	...	...	3
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	150

### II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices

Nil.

### III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. <i>Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c, Act, 1919</i>	...	...	Nil.
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*B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	150
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—		
(a) by owners	... ..	150
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners		0

*C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	1
(3) Number of dwelling houses voluntarily demolished	... ..	2

## 3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS

Nil.

## 4.—STAFF.

Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer—

- (1) Medical Officer of Health, supervising the inspection of houses and action taken thereon.
- (2) Inspector of Nuisances, the officer designated for special duties on housing.
- (3) Architect for new housing scheme.

# Sanitary Inspector's Report.

YEAR 1920.

SHEPSHED URBAN DISTRICT.

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Total number of complaints received during the year	98
.. .. inspections made for all purposes	1471
.. .. notices served, 72. Informal 41, statutory 31	
.. .. summonses issued, 2. Convictions obtained, 1	

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Insanitary houses (Public Health Act, 1875):	No. inspected	167
	No. cleansed	150
Overcrowding: No. of houses inspected, 3.	Nuisances abated,	1
Offensive accumulations: No inspected, 2.	Nuisances abated,	2

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## Closest Accommodation.

Approximate No. in District:	(1) Privies, 188.	(2) Pail closets, 789	(3) Water closets, 126.
Privies (middens):	No. of new provided, 0.	No. repaired, 0.	No. converted to (a) pails, 35. (b) w.c.'s, 0.
Pails or earth closets:	No. of new provided, 2.	No. converted to w.c.'s, 2	
Water closets:	No. of new provided, 12.		

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## Drainage and Sewerage.

Drains, drain traps, &c.:	No. inspected, 67.	Nuisances abated, 67
Cesspools:	No. repaired, cleansed, &c., 1.	No. abolished and drains connected to sewer, 0.

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## Scavenging.

How is refuse disposed of?	Nightsoil to farmers, and ashes, &c., to disused quarry-tip.
Ashpits:	No. of new provided, 0. No. converted to ashbins, 35
Ashbins:	No. of new provided, 42.

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## Water Supply.

No. of samples taken for analysis, 15.	No. condemned, 3.
Wells:	No. closed, 3. No. cleansed, repaired, &c., 1.
No. of instances where public supply was substituted for the well,	3



### Infectious Diseases.

Houses: No. inspected, 35. No. of inspections, 78.  
 No. disinfected: (a) Houses, 23. (b) Schoolrooms, 4.  
 Is there a steam disinfecter available? No.

### Food Supply.

Diseases: No. of seizures, 2. No. of summonses issued, 0.  
           No. of convictions obtained, 0. No. of parcels surrendered, 0  
 No. of carcases or parts of carcases condemned for tuberculosis:  
           In 1914, 5. In Jan 1920, 0. In Dec. 1920, 0  
 Slaughter houses:  
     No. licensed—        „   10.        „   10.        „   11  
     General condition of slaughter houses: Good.  
     No. of inspections of premises, 57.  
     No. of contravention of bye-laws (Urban), 6  
     Has public abattoir been established? No  
     If not, what are existing arrangements for inspection of meat at  
       time of slaughter? Periodical inspection while killing.

### Milk Supply (Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885—1889).

Have regulations been adopted? Yes.  
 Has veterinary inspector been appointed? No  
 Dairymen:  
     No. of milksellers (registered), 15. No. of inspections made, 11  
       „        „   (cowkeepers), 42.        „        „   27  
       „        „   (purveyors only), 10.        „        „   4  
 Premises: No. of inspections made, 42. No. of contraventions found, 0  
           No. found to require (a) cleansing, 2.  
    (b) structural or sanitary improvements, 0  
 Legal proceedings: No. of summonses issued, 0

### Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Workshops:	No. on register (to include bakehouses)	58
	No. of nuisances abated	3
Bakehouses:	No. on register	6
	No. of nuisances abated	2
Legal proceedings:	No. of summonses issued	0

W. NORTH HAMPTON,

*Inspector of Nuisances.*









